

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on or before the date shown below



Eugene R. Montalvo
Eugene Montalvo

Date: 10 APRIL 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)

Robert Andrew Alford et al.)

Serial No. 10/500,316)

Filed June 28, 2004)

METHOD FOR INTERCONNECTING
TUBULARS BY FORGE WELDING)

Group Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: Michael Aboagye

April 10, 2006

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 11 JANUARY 2006

Dear Sir:

Attorney for Applicant in the above-captioned application hereby responds to the Office Action mailed 11 January 2006. At the time the Office Action issued, claims 1 to 21 were pending.

The response amends the specification, claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 16, 17, 19, 21 and adds new claims 22 to 24. That brings the total number of claims to four in excess of the number of 20, three more than already paid for. The total number of independent claims is one in excess of 3.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the corresponding claim fee to Deposit Account No. 19-1800.